

Living a Hindu Life	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 6
Learning objectives: To explore the concept of reincarnation as an important belief in Hinduism. To understand how Hindus mark significant stages of their lives with religious rites.		
Themes to discuss: Actions and consequences. Vegetarianism. What happens when we die? What do we want to do with our lives?		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create timelines of your own lives, showing significant events that have happened and which you hope will happen. Discuss what kind of events the class' lines all have in common, and which are special to individuals. Were any of the events religious ones? • Look together at a Trimurti and understand the three different roles of the gods to create, sustain and destroy the world, but understand that this is a cycle, and out of destruction a new world is created. Use the Water Cycle to introduce a discussion on the cycle of death and rebirth in human lives and the idea of reincarnation. Look at some paintings of reincarnation (see below) and realise that to create a timeline of a Hindu's life you would need to use a circle not a straight line. Create the circles to start building a record of this topic. • Talk about the link between how you live you life and how you are reincarnated (karma). How do you think you would live your life if you knew that it would affect what happened to you in the future? Would it make any difference? Think why many Hindus are vegetarian and respect animals, especially the cow. • Choose for yourselves significant Indian names which have a special meaning for you (see below) and add this to your life circle diagrams. Mark off the four main samskaras which Hindus undertake on your circle (birth, sacred thread, marriage, funeral). Set the class in four groups to each research and present a samskara – this could be done in a variety of ways including: role play; photo storyboards; powerpoints. Share these with the class. • You may like to finish this topic by designing and playing simple snakes and ladders games to illustrate how a Hindu should live their life and the concept of reincarnation (remember that the boards should also have squares relating to devotional life, not just rites of passage). 		

Websites and resources:

Note: a **trimurti** is an image with the three faces of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva – you can access one at

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/SocialStudies/RE/Database/Graphics/Artefacts/HinduDeities.html>

Reincarnation paintings at: <http://www.iskcon.com/galleries/bg1983/1/index.htm#> bottom one on page, large picture at <http://www.answers.com/topic/samsara-jpg> same at

<http://www.salagram.net/changing-bodies2.jpg> the painting at

<http://slantmouth.com/articles/readyToPop/images/reincarnation.jpg> has soul passing through a trimurti, and the best painting is at

<http://www.geocities.com/reinkarnacija/Reincarnation.jpg> although I couldn't find a large scale version of this.

Indian names and their meanings at <http://www.iloveindia.com/babynames/index.html> an extensive list

Notes and photographs of Samskaras at <http://hinduism.iskcon.com/practice/600.htm>

